



WINTER SCENE, LAKE TAHOE

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Bob Frenkel

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# SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

December  
1957

# People You Know

THE MOST exhaustive talent search in history has produced a new sketch-man for the *Loma Prieta*. He is summer news, and his name is *Roger Condon*, a commercial artist with a couple of extra vices: skiing and boatbuilding. Speaking of those people down there, they have taken into the fold their 1000 and oneth member, and probably more by this time. Crossing the 1000 mark were *Dr. and Mrs. Norman Rogers*.

The Rock Climbers on the Peninsula have really been whooping it up (and down): *George Larimore* and *Felix Knauth* had themselves a mountaineering time around Europe recently, but a siege of bad weather prevented their climbing in the Alps, temporarily at least. They were eager to scale the Dolomites before returning home in November (well, boys?).

The same area wasn't very nice to *Helen Van Ryckevorsel* this summer. She broke her ankle trying to escape a rock fall.

What a spirit of enterprise! What a social conscience! The RCS of Loma Prieta is getting up a second first aid kit (second aid?) as an

addition to the original one. This sounds mysterious: to date its greatest use has been in repair of air mattresses.

It isn't that rock climbers are our favorites, or even that we consider them especially likable members of the club, BUT this item fascinated us: the only October climbing done by Tehipitians (Webster: Fresnoans who live in tehipeites) was at Hospital Rock. What does this signify? We must know before we die in some unimaginative way.

Here is something for all of us to note: on October 6 the *Krascels*, *Bob Board*, *George Ballis*, *Stanley Vance* and *Ernie Cook*, all of Tehipite Chapter, went to see the ravages of a year's littering at Weaver Lake. They found plenty of same, including full bags of food, full beer cans, and a jeep on a foot trail. They got the jeep out, gathered up all the trash and burned it, and buried the remains. Three cheers, and let's have more of these trips.

Mother Lode Chapter had its annual one-week backpack trip in the Florence Lake-Lake Italy area. Weather was excellent, and the eighteen trekkers who turned out covered 45 miles in all, mostly on the Muir Trail and its lateral approaches. Ascended: Mt. Senger, Bear Creek Spire, and Volcanic Knob. Nothing flat-footed about our flat-landed friends.

Winner of the *Toiyabe Tattler* subscription contest on reasons for joining the Sierra Club was *Mrs. Paul DeDecker* of Independence, whose reason was solely furthering the club's conservation work.

From Clair Tappaan Lodge we hear that *Roger Paris*, our ski instructor, will be back this winter, wreathed with summer honors as usual. He and his partner once more won the French National Slalom Championship for double-canoe. They will compete again in the international races, to be held in Germany next July. A good man is hard to beat, *n'est-ce pas?*

Newly elected San Francisco Bay Chapter Executive Committee members are *George Baldwin*, *Hasse Bunnelle*, *Betty Christeler*, *A. Louis Elliott*, *Glenn Gaumer*, *Kitch Kitchener*, *Pauline Praasterink*, *Ned Robinson*, and *Helen Waterman*. All hail!

*Nancy Pearson* of the *Yodeler* staff tells us a couple of interesting things about *Hal Gilliam*: (1) He and *Ann Lawrence* were married in April; (2) He is the author of the just published book *San Francisco Bay*.

DORIS BROWN

THE SIERRA CLUB,\* founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of mountain regions. Participation is invited in the program to enjoy and preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

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\*Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.



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# Sierra Club Bulletin

VOLUME 42

DECEMBER, 1957

NUMBER 10

... TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, AND PROTECT THE NATURAL MOUNTAIN SCENE ...

## Outing Plans: Some New Ideas

Early, incomplete returns are in from the Outing Committee's discussion of plans for the Sierra Club's 1958 summer outings. The information that follows is subject to change, but we hope it will help you to make preliminary arrangements for your next vacation. Certainly it should kindle high-country dreams for that majority bound to sea level at the turn of the year.

Important: do *not* attempt to make reservations for any of these trips before the final announcement appears in a later *Bulletin*.

### High Trips

In the Sierra, two periods of two weeks each will start on July 6 and July 20. First session: Pine Creek to Little Lakes Valley, via Selden and Mono passes. Second session: Little Lakes Valley to McGee Creek via Mono, Silver and McGee Creek passes.

A new type of trip will be conducted from July 20 to August 2 in the North Fork watershed of the Kings River. This is an experimental outing which will move faster than traditional high trips and will have a smaller staff. "Do-it-yourself" is the theme, and the goal is a compromise between the simplicity of knapsack living and the comparative ease of a high trip.

The out-of-California high trip will explore the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming, with two ten-day periods beginning August 6 and 18.

### Base Camp

The Sierra Base Camp will be at Lamarck Lake (elevation 9,600), reached from North

Lake via Lamarck Creek. Three sessions of two weeks each will begin July 13, July 27 and August 10.

### Cascades Special

In Washington's Northern Cascades there will be a base-camp-type outing, with pack trips available at extra cost, or knapsack trips at slight additional effort. Camp will be in the Bridge Creek-Stehekin area. Three one-week periods beginning August 6, 13 and 20.

### Knapsack Trips

Six one-week trips are planned in the Sierra: July 6 (for beginners), in the Golden Trout Creek country south of Sequoia National Park; July 19 (group-planned), in the North Fork watershed of the Kings River; July 19, to be announced; August 10, Northern Yosemite; August 16, Deadman Canyon-Kaweah country; August 23, Mono Creek.

Out-of-state knapsack trips will head for the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming, August 11 to 22, and to the Salmon La Sac country of Washington in late July.

### River Trips

There will be three outings in Dinosaur National Monument, six days each, beginning June 17 and 25 and July 3. Other plans include another Glen Canyon trip and a new feature, a river trip with some hiking days, in the Salmon River country of Idaho.

### Burro Trips

Area to be announced, but tentatively from a west-side roadhead. Two one-week periods will begin July 13 and 20, followed by two

two-week periods starting July 27 and August 10.

### Family Burro Trips

Two periods of two weeks each are scheduled. Present plans: (1) South Lake to Ta-boose Pass; (2) Kearsarge Pass to Sawmill Pass via Sixty Lakes Basin. Alternative to Trip 1 is the upper Bubbs Creek region via Kearsarge Pass.

### Sierra Ski Tour

A ski-mountaineering trip from Yosemite Valley to June Lake, during the first week of April, 1958, has been approved by the Sierra Club's Outing Committee and the National Park Service. The trip, something new in the club's outing program, will be limited to 24 persons including commissary and will take nine days including travel to and from the mountains.

Proposed route is from Mirror Lake, up Tenaya switchbacks to Tenaya Lake, by road to Tuolumne Meadows, up Lyell Fork, across Donahue Pass, and down Rush Creek to June Lake and Highway 395.

Estimated cost is \$40 to \$50. Applications must be accompanied by a \$20 deposit and a brief biography including age, sex and resumé of ski-touring and mountaineering experience. If application is accepted, \$6 of deposit will not be refundable in case of cancellation.

Leader of the trip is Al Baxter. Address inquiries and applications to the club office in San Francisco.

### Andes, Anyone?

A one-month trip to the Cordillera Blanca in Peru is under consideration as a feature of the Outing Committee's 1958 program. Early expressions of interest are invited as an aid in planning. The following paragraphs indicate the probable character of the trip.

**1. Travel:** By air with group rates from Oakland or Los Angeles to Lima; by truck to Huarás in Santos Valley; on foot and mule-back to base camp.

**2. Activities:** (a) Climbing on the easier high peaks up to 21,000 feet; (b) exploration and pass-crossing 15,000 to 17,000 feet; (c) base camp activities and archeological site-seeing, 10,000 to 14,000 feet.

**3. Duration:** One month, round trip from California.

**4. Time:** Late June and July; exact dates undetermined.

**5. Costs:** \$1,200.00, plus or minus 10%, includes air fare, food, community equipment, and leadership and planning.

**6. Experience:** Good health and stamina. Technical experience required will vary with the level of aspiration.

**7. Alternate activities:** It will be possible for club members to take advantage of special group air rates even if they plan to make only a short visit to the climbing camps, and wish to spend other time in Lima, Cuzco, or Inca sites.

**8. Inquiries:** Alfred Baxter, 115 Highland Boulevard, Berkeley 8, California.



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## Highlights of Council Meeting

A spirited two-day meeting of the Sierra Club Council, October 26-27 in Alameda, covered a long agenda. Thanks to Randal Dickey, who arranged to use the local headquarters of the Alameda Boy Scouts, the Council had a comfortable meeting hall, the barbecue area in the garden for a steak dinner Saturday, and adequate parking space.

More details on the numerous matters discussed will appear as before in the chapter papers. Briefly now, among the items discussed, but not necessarily the most important, were the following:

- Routine Council administrative matters, concerning terms of members, appointments, reports of various committees; resignation of Ruth Aiken, and election of James Gorin as fourth member of the Council Executive Committee; report on the Council Procedures Handbook, which will include scope, responsibilities, policies.

- Chapter matters, with recommendations, clarifications, descriptions, and suggested boundary changes for some of the chapters; proposed policy guide for chapter treasurers; Membership Committee report: progress toward uniform chapter procedures, especially concerning applicants for membership (and how chapters do differ!); chapter trips: participation of teenagers, and a junior program; chapter procedure books (with Loma Prieta's as a pattern).

- Club committee matters: Conservation Education, Visual Education, and chapter conservation committees—how they differ and how to coordinate their functions; special Conservation Education Fund Committee of Council and Board; the public relations primer prepared by William Losh; Outing Committee—publicity for outings, and Bob Golden's study of our impact on the mountains (we love the mountains to death—litter-ally).

- Another Information and Education Conference in 1958, to crystallize and consolidate what has developed since the first one in 1956.

- Club matters: the need for expanded club headquarters; a report from David Brower on the proposed budget approved by the Executive Committee; the project for a movie to illustrate "the purposes, activities and ideals of the Sierra Club."

HARRIET T. PARSONS

### *Sierrans Receive Conservation Awards*

At the annual meeting of the California Conservation Council at International House, Berkeley, on November 19, three Sierrans received honor or merit awards for 1957: William Drake of Canyon, the western representative of Nature Conservancy, Doris (Mrs. Richard M.) Leonard of Berkeley, who staged the highly successful Fifth Biennial Wilderness Conference this spring, and Phyllis Lindley of Berkeley, secretary in the Pacific Coast office of the National Audubon Society.

Mr. Drake was cited for his work as a librarian and as arranger of field trips and meetings to bring conservation matters to the attention of citizens of Contra Costa County.

Doris Leonard, whose work with the Wilderness Conference is matched by her many years of backing up husband Dick, one of the outstanding conservationists of the country, received this honor citation: "Mrs. Leonard, through your broad knowledge of conservation and conservationists, your warm understanding of people and your special talent for effective communication with them, and your ability in organizing and guiding a convention, you have brought the Biennial Wilderness Conference, sponsored by the Sierra Club, to full effectiveness and to nationwide significance. This large scale work is an extension of the part you have long had in helping to lead wilderness outings on which adults and children alike have learned to appreciate and protect our scenic resources."

Miss Lindley was praised for fine educational work, especially at the Audubon Nature Camp.

## Summer Project Completed

### Bradley Hut Ready for Use

IN THE spring of 1955 five skiers left Ludlow Hut and headed north to tentatively locate the next—and last—major hut between Highways 40 and 50 along the Sierra crest. A howling blizzard developed and the party was forced to bivouac in the lower end of Five Lakes Basin—demonstrating the need for a hut at that location. In June, 1957, the first work party excavated three feet of snow to dig the foundation trenches for this new hut, and on October 5 and 6, eight work week ends later, the Josephine Bradley Memorial Ski Hut stood ready to receive its first winter visitors, completed, fittingly, in the year's first snowstorm.

The idea for a Sierra Crest Ski Trail from Norden to Echo, with huts conveniently spaced along the route, dates back to the 1930's. In those days Bestor Robinson, Einar Nilsson, Lewis Clark and others cavorted among snowy peaks on routes seldom traveled by participants in the then new but growing sport of skiing. It took the postwar ski-touring enthusiasts to locate and construct first Benson, then Ludlow, and now Bradley, Huts.

When Ludlow was finished in 1955, it was plain that one more hut was needed to com-

plete the chain (though further interspersed emergency shelters are regarded as an eventual necessity). The enthusiastic leaders of Ludlow construction volunteered to undertake this new hut, with Ned Robinson as chief slave driver and Merritt Robinson as chief engineer. Phil Faulconer offered to design the hut, using as a starting point the proved and practical plan of Ludlow.

A short time later a letter was received in the club office which read in part as follows:

"I would like to propose that the Bradley family will be very happy if it may add the final cabin in the touring string from Donner to Echo as a memorial to Josephine Crane Bradley. I can think of nothing that would be more expressive of her own skiing history and enjoyment; nothing that she would have liked better to help along, were she still with us. If she could not any longer meet the demands of winter touring herself she would have been happy to help others to enjoy its charms. You may perhaps recall how she spent much of the summer of '46 helping Rick and me saw wood and stock the cabins at Tioga for a touring experience that she would not actually take but was eager to participate in vicariously to the last detail . . .

Cordially,  
Harold Bradley."

JOSEPHINE BRADLEY was the strong feminine influence in a family of eight boys—her husband and seven sons—a family that often traveled the High Sierra together in summer or winter.

With the Bradley family's generous donation matched by the Sierra Club, the vital monetary problem was solved. Before long the site was firmly located on Forest Service land in the southeast sector of Five Lakes Basin, 200 feet above the easternmost lake.

Many pleasant sessions were spent by the Hut Committee at Dr. Bradley's home going over Phil Faulconer's excellent design, dividing responsibility for the many items to be procured, and allocating to those present the jobs that had to be done as preliminaries to actual construction.



JOSEPHINE CRANE BRADLEY



The big job, however, was to figure how to get some twelve tons of material the three miles and 2,000 feet up to the site and still build the hut in one summer. Air drop? Expensive, and subject to material damage. Helicopter? Too costly. High line? Many involved problems. Drag line or road? Inconsistent with Sierra Club conservation practices, time-consuming and expensive. Human back? This method would take all summer to get the material in and leave little time for building. Winter supply? Many items would be subject to water damage, and besides, hills were too steep for weasel and sled to climb. The final decision was to cut all but the principal structural members to 8-foot lengths and bring them in by mule back. Long timbers would have to come in by human pack or special horse rig (both methods were subsequently used).

EXPERIENCE gained on the Ludlow Hut indicated that the best arrangement was to have work parties on alternate week ends. The all-important food "concession" was assumed by chief commissary steward (and incidentally club President) Dr. Bradley—much to the relief of several Ludlow veterans.

The 4th of July week end saw foundations 90% complete, thanks to a portable electric generator and electrically driven concrete mixer. The generator was a must to provide power to mix concrete, to run power saws, and to operate other tools that expedited construction.

Because it is expected that the hut will receive many overnight visitors coming from nearby Squaw Valley, it is the largest in the chain. The concrete lower floor measures 25' by 28', bounded by rock side walls 3' in height on which sit the 4" x 8" A-frames, the principal members in any design of this type. The interior is lined by natural-finish plywood walls, three red checkerboard fiberglass-covered tables (a Bestor Robinson creation), and two cheery stoves radiating warmth to all who cross the threshold.

The second floor is the sleeping deck. Air mattresses are necessary; no bunks are provided, for their use means mattresses, mice, and inflexibility in the number the hut will accommodate.



*Bradley Hut, Oct. 1957 (Charles Hardy)*

The exterior end walls are of boards and battens, attractively rustic, and the subtle green finish of the aluminum roof blends beautifully with the surrounding forest. The roof paint was donated by W. P. Fuller & Co., for an experiment on its lasting qualities under such conditions, and was applied under the direction of ever-present, effervescent Claudia Owen.

A project such as this is the product of determination, hard work and enthusiasm on the part of many individuals who find enjoyment in the sweat of construction, and satisfaction in the attainment of a common goal. Many are those who spend several week ends in these pursuits. To name but a few, in addition to those already mentioned: chief assistant cooks Bill and Stevie Ferguson; hard-working Alice Missling; photographer Bill Owen; craftsmen Frank and Butch Hibbard; chief sign carver Florence Robinson; and jacks of all trades, the "four Scandinavians"—Jesper, Einar, Erland and Einar.

But what contributed most to the enjoyment of each long to be remembered week end was the sparkling smile, gentle wit and warm heart of the gentleman who in perpetuating his wife's love for the mountains alternated between spatula, camera, spade and hammer, and who, in the final analysis, made the Josephine Bradley Memorial Hut possible.

NED ROBINSON



CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE

Donald A. Rehbein

## No Business Like Snow Business

The night is still and black; the air is so cold it makes your chest hurt to breathe it; the snow lies in white mounds that sparkle and glint as they catch the light. As you walk toward the lights of Clair Tappaan, the snow crunches under foot. You hurry toward the lodge and the welcoming warmth, as you think, "I didn't know it could be so cold." Once inside, you see a register—you sign your name and struggle up to your bunk. Another stay at Clair Tappaan has begun. Is this your first trip . . . your second . . . your fiftieth? It's wonderful to be here, isn't it? Wonderful to be back—to make new friends—to renew acquaintances . . . to work together, enjoy the out-of-doors, the food, the fireplace, the folk dancing.

Where are you? The Sierra Club Lodge lies right in the center of the best skiing in the Sierra, on Highway 40, just a mile and a half west of Donner Summit. Here, within a matter of minutes, you can reach Sugar Bowl, Squaw Valley and the Reno area. Yet, you don't have to go away to have good ski slopes. For a dollar a day you can use the excellent rope tow on Signal Hill—the Sierra Club's own hill, only a few minutes

from the Lodge. This year we will again benefit from the instruction of Roger Paris. He will conduct beginning, intermediate, and advanced classes daily on Signal Hill. Group or private lessons are available.

For those who scorn the modern conveniences of our ski tows, there are four huts available to tourists. At no cost, except for your own food, you can set out in one of three different directions from Clair Tappaan and enjoy the unbroken snow on trips of varying length and difficulty. All summer, groups have worked to finish the new Josephine Bradley Memorial Hut. Now completed and ready for occupancy, it lies nestled in Five Lakes Basin, just south of Squaw Peak. Are there some who don't ski? Then snowshoeing (bring your own) and ice-skating are for you.

We have a new manager! You oldtimers will remember Keith Lummis. He will be back to take over the duties of manager, as Rudy Talso has heard the call of duty on the other side of the mountain. Although we don't have a tow operator as yet (anybody interested?), Diane Clayton will be turning out those famous, hearty meals you have

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all heard about. And what do you do? Do you like to sweep, help in the kitchen, or shovel snow (lots of snow this year)? Since the Lodge operates on a nonprofit, cooperative basis, everyone is asked to assist in maintaining it. Only a half-hour a day, either morning or night, will help to keep it running.

Do you remember the "coffins"? They are gone forever! As a result of many hours of volunteer labor, a new, modern, north annex has been completed. It was designed by one of our own members, architect George Homsey, who also designed the unique warming hut. The new wing is divided into varied-capacity family rooms, with a wide porch on two sides. It will accommodate a total of 32 persons. Bunks and cubicles will still be available, but be sure to get your reservations in early.

Reservations may be made at the club office in San Francisco. They may not be made earlier than 30 days prior to the desired week end. Guests are welcome any week end except New Year's and Washington's Birthday. They must be accompanied by members.

Also available is Hutchinson Lodge, about 200 yards west of Clair Tappaan (ideal for

small groups up to fifteen). For details write the CTL manager.

What to bring? All we furnish is bunk, spring, and mattress, so bring your own bedding. Remember to prepare for cold winter nights. Snow clothes will take you anywhere. Toilet articles and sundries may be brought at your own discretion. Limit size and bulk because you will have to carry everything on the walk up from the highway over a snowy trail. After eleven the lights are doused, so bring a flashlight.

Last, but most important, how do you get here? Private car arrangements are made personally through Jim Davis Sport Shop in Berkeley or the club office in San Francisco (no phone calls, please—just drop in). There is also the Pacific Greyhound bus which runs about four times a day. Check to see that it stops at Norden. The Sierra Club bus will again run between San Francisco and the Lodge. Beginning the week end after New Year, it leaves the Key System Terminal at 6:15, stops briefly in Berkeley at 7:00, and arrives at the Lodge about midnight. Returning Sunday after dinner at 6:00, the bus reaches the Bay Area between 10:30 and 11:00.

ROBERTA CODIS

### 1958 Winter Rates at Clair Tappaan Lodge

<i>American Plan</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Guest</i>
<i>By reservation</i>		
Basic rate per day.....	\$4.50	\$5.50
Week-end packages:		
(a) Friday night through Sunday dinner.....	9.00	11.00
(b) Friday night through Sunday lunch.....	8.50	10.25
(c) Friday night through Sunday breakfast.....	8.00	9.50
(d) Saturday dinner through Sunday dinner.....	7.00	8.50
Extension of reservation:		
Breakfast, lunch, lodging—per unit.....	1.00	1.25
Dinner .....	1.50	1.75
Full week .....	27.00	33.00
Mid-week (Monday through Friday).....	20.00	25.00
Transportation via chartered bus (beginning Friday, January 3, 1958)....	6.00	6.00

Reservations are made at the Sierra Club office, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco. Full payment is required. Refunds will not be made after Thursday except in unusual circumstances and at the discretion of the Committee. Cancellation charges:

Through Wednesday prior to week end.....	\$1.00
Thursday prior to week end.....	2.00

# On Your Own

A small cluster of people huddled close to the crackling fire made of pitchy lodgepole pine. A dull thud, and the fire with its supporting platform of criss-crossed logs settled a bit into the universal cushion of snow. The group had skied a few miles from the outlet of Echo Lake and now were recounting to one another the excitement of the swooping descent of Mt. Ralston's knotty arms.

Memories were vivid: Plumes of powder trailing behind; glimpses back at one's own tracks; the broad white expanse of Desolation Valley, walled to the west by the serrated Crystal Range; the snow-encrusted whitebarks clinging grotesquely to the wind-whipped ridge; and the endless shadowy variety among the hummocks that unite the northwest slope of Mt. Ralston.

There were sounds, too: the crisp hiss of rushing skis in the silence of the snow damped forest, the slow crunch of the leader's trail-breaking, and now the roar of the Primus stoves signaling the imminence of dinner.

Steaming soup was quickly followed by a variation of the stew theme—in this instance a clam concoction—washed down by copious quantities of tea. As the fire sank deeper and began to smoulder in its cold grave, the group sought its sleeping bags and dissolved into the night.

This is snow camping, which is but one phase, a very enjoyable one, of an extensive program of ski touring informally organized by various chapters. Most of the trips have made use of ski huts to insure warmth for overnight stops. But the joy of adventure on trackless slopes, the sights, sounds, and silences are there too, on the way in to these cabins and in the close comfort within.

The increased number of ski tours in the 1956-57 season may have been due to several factors: fewer stormy week ends, more huts available, fewer organized chapter ski trips, or the pressures of civilization in roadside resorts. Neil Anderson, San Francisco Bay Chapter Winter Sports chairman, has supplied the following data:

## Try snow camping or ski touring

	1955-56	1956-57
Ski tours scheduled	18	12
Ski tours completed	11	9
Total turnout on scheduled tours	60	123
Turnout for independent or private tours (to Grubb or Benson Huts only)	50	129
Man-days touring (assuming 2-day week ends)	200	500
	(approx.)	(approx.)

The figures representing private trips could probably be safely trebled when one considers trips to ski huts in Sequoia, Yosemite, and Lassen Volcanic National Parks, to several touring cabins in the south, and to heavily used Shasta Alpine Lodge. The many day and overnight tours in other parts of the snow country would undoubtedly further increase these figures.

BOB FRENKEL

## Sierra Crest Ski Trail

With the construction of the Josephine Bradley Memorial Hut this summer, the Sierra crest ski route between Highways 40 and 50 is one step further toward completion. Although in the past decade possibly fifteen parties have made this interhighway trip, the ski trail has not yet been marked. Blazing the route with orange triangles, the remaining step, should be finished by summer after a final review of the route.

The other units of the Sierra Crest Ski Trail are all in fine shape. Peter Grubb Hut, low in fuel last season, now has a three-year supply of split red fir in its tidy interior. Benson Hut, as easily reached from Clair Tappaan Lodge as Peter Grubb, is now readied. Because skiers can up-ski Mt. Lincoln via chairlift, Benson received very heavy use last season. Dave Cudaback reports lots of wood, a snowproof front door, and a mouseproof mattress hanger. The Bill Ludlow Hut, our most southern cabin—near the edge of Desolation Valley Primitive Area—has a new stove this year. Interior fittings have been added, making the hut more comfortable than before.

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*Touring group  
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Mount Lassen  
(Bob Frenkel)*

## 1958 Ski Tour Schedule

Following is a condensation of the ski touring program which will appear in the San Francisco Bay Chapter schedule for January-April, 1958. Any club member, from any chapter, is cordially invited to participate in any tour which is suited to his level of ability and stamina. Most trips require only 4th class skiing, or better. Snow camping is just the next step for a skier who is also an experienced knapsacker equipped for the cold. Leaders' names appear in parentheses, followed by an indication of the difficulty of the trip.

Jan. 11-12—Peter Grubb Hut (Chuck Edwards, Jody Mills); easy.

18-19—Josephine Bradley Hut. This is the beautiful hut just completed in Five Lakes Basin adjacent to the south side of Squaw Valley. Approachable by foot or lift from Squaw Valley (Jesper Strandgaard and Betty Klevesahl, coördinator); easy.

Feb. 1-2—Bill Ludlow Hut (Don Huber and Dick Spongberg, coördinator); easy.

8-9—Bradley Hut (Bruce Grant and Ned Robinson, the hut's dedicated construction foreman); easy.

22-23—Mt. Lincoln to John Benson Hut to Squaw Valley, with lift up Lincoln

if desired (Pete Graf, Paul Grunland); moderate with good weather.

Mar. 1-2—Burst Rock from Dodge Ridge; snow camping (Norm Turner, Earl Oliver); easy.

8-9—Ostrander Lake, Yosemite (Hans Ostwald, Jesper Strandgaard); moderate to tiring.

22-23—Ludlow Hut (Ned Robinson, Ian Begg); easy. Ellis Peak and Madden Creek are on a beautiful return route, adding a little to the effort.

29-30—Freel Peak from Heavenly Valley Lift; snow camping; a scouting trip for experienced 3rd class skiers only (Earl Oliver, Pete Graf); moderate to strenuous.

Apr. 5-6—Jacks Peak in Desolation Valley area; snow camping (Bob Frenkel and Norm Turner, coördinator); moderate to camp.

19-20—Mt. Lassen; may be snow camping—inquire (Dave Cudaback, Al Steck, Erland Kleivan); moderate.

May 3-4—Mt. Shasta Alpine Lodge (Phil Faulconer, the able and persevering Bradley Hut architect, Herb Steiner, Erland Kleivan); easy to lodge, strenuous climb.



HALF DOME, showing route and bivouacs

Ansel Adams

## Half Dome — The Hard Way

WHEN three young climbers stood on top of Half Dome on a late June afternoon, it was the climax of a full five days of arduous climbing. Jerry Gallwas, Mike Sherrick, and Royal Robbins had just completed the first ascent of the northwest face of this stupendous monolith at the head of Yosemite Valley—a climb that had until recently received little serious thought because of its length (a full 2,000 feet above the base), its steepness (genuinely vertical), and the apparent lack of a feasible route.

The first serious attempt by any of this group of Sierra Club members from southern California was made by Don Wilson, Warren Harding, Gallwas, and Robbins in 1954. The attempt yielded experience and information: the upper and lower portions of the wall were probably climbable, but the 300-foot diagonal traverse in between appeared disconcertingly smooth and fissureless.

The second (and successful) attempt began when Gallwas, Sherrick, and Robbins arrived at the base of the wall on Sunday afternoon, June 23, 1957. They managed, that day, to climb 150 feet up the face. They

placed a fixed rope, then descended and bivouacked on the ground—their last contact with it until five nights later!

In the next day and a half, moving as fast as possible, the party climbed 900 feet. This brought them to what had appeared to be the crux of the climb, the Great Traverse. Getting halfway across it took the rest of the second day (Tuesday), required many pitons and expansion bolts, and necessitated a difficult and spectacular swing traverse. (A swing traverse is a maneuver resorted to when there is open or otherwise unclimbable space between where the climbers are and where they want to be—a climber becomes the bob on a self-propelled pendulum and tries to swing out far enough, on a rope suspended from a piton or other anchor, to reach the distant holds.)

The trio completed the Great Traverse Wednesday morning and left a fixed rope to facilitate retreat, then spent the rest of the day climbing a network of connecting cracks that occasionally resolved into a chimney in which more normal progress was possible.

At the end of this third day the climbers had attained a point about 1,500 feet above

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## Conference Discusses Dinosaur Park Bill

The 11th annual meeting of the Natural Resources Council of America was held October 7 and 8 at the National Audubon Society's camp near Sarona, Wisconsin. Representatives of about twenty national and regional organizations were in attendance. Most of two days was spent discussing current conservation issues, including legislation pending in Congress to establish Dinosaur National Park.

About two hours were devoted to a discussion of Senator Allott's Dinosaur National Park bill, with a full presentation by Carl Gustafson of New York, Secretary of the Council of Conservationists, staunch supporter of the present bill. Gustafson had been specially invited by the chairman to attend the meeting and explain the New York group's position. Only one NRC mem-

ber representative spoke in favor of the bill as it now stands—the representative of an organization which has spoken against both the recreation and wilderness bills now before Congress, the chairman of whose board is also a member of the Council of Conservationists' executive committee.

The sense of the NRC group was that Senator Allott's bill should omit the present controversial sentence which is construed to encourage specifically further reclamation studies in the proposed Dinosaur Park. The present Monument, they believed, was safer than a park with such a string on it. No representative, however, spoke against national-park status for Dinosaur provided omission of such a sentence were assured.

### New Officers and Members

The NRC voted unanimously to extend an invitation to membership to the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Mazamas, and took steps to initiate a new service for member groups. It plans to start a reporting service covering executive orders and other actions of the executive branch of the federal government affecting natural resources. Carl D. Shoemaker of Washington, D.C., will work out the information-gathering and reporting procedures.

The following officers were elected: Chairman, Charles H. Callison of Washington, D.C., representing the National Wildlife Federation; vice-chairman, C. R. Gutermuth, Washington, D.C., Wildlife Management Institute; secretary, Joseph W. Penfold, Washington, D.C., Izaak Walton League of America; treasurer, Harry E. Radcliffe, Washington, D.C., American Nature Association.

The Council, not an action group in itself, was organized for the purpose of facilitating cooperation and an exchange of information between organizations operating in the field of renewable natural resources. Its members include about forty national and regional citizen groups and professional and scientific societies.

ROYAL ROBBINS

the base. By this time the combination of fatigue, strong sun, and continuously difficult climbing had so slowed them down that they took two full days to climb the last 500 feet. They reached the summit late on the fifth day with only two hours of daylight to spare. To expedite progress on that last day, the team had thrown off the pack containing all gear not essential to climbing or safety. It fell the 1,800 feet to the ground without touching the wall (but was later retrieved undamaged!).

Even enthusiasts must admit a certain amount of calculated risk on a climb of this kind. The party recognized that the difficulties of removing an injured climber from the face might be insurmountable. Therefore the emphasis was on climbing as safely as possible, and the ascent proved a great and successful adventure.

About 275 pitons were placed, and 20 expansion bolts. The bolts (which can be placed only after arduous hammer-and-drill preparation of holes to receive them) were used only where they seemed essential for progress or safety, and should be sufficient for parties making the climb in the future.

## If You're a Skier . . .

Perhaps you have heard of the Far West Ski Association in connection with its activities to improve racing and racers.

Have you ever wondered if this impressive-sounding organization did anything else? You can be sure that whether you are a snow bunny or expert, ski tourer or fireside skier, some phase of FWSA's activity will directly affect you.

The Far West Ski Association sponsors ski patrols, uniform ski instruction, and snow and weather reports; coöperates with resort owners to aid them in improving their facilities for skiers, and with the State Highway Patrol to provide safer highways during the snow season by informing prospective skiers of winter highway rules, written and unwritten; and helps in the development of junior competitors and competitions. It is taking an active part in the preparations for the 1960 Winter Olympic Games.

Membership is not restricted to the elite of skiing. Anyone can join by merely filling out an application blank and enclosing the appropriate amount. By doing so, he will gain a voice in local, national and international skiing.

Unattached membership	\$3.50
Active membership through member club (Sierra Club is a member club)	2.50
Associate membership (spouse of active member)	1.25
Junior membership (under 18 years)	1.50

For further information and application blanks, write Don Huber, 802 College Avenue, Kentfield, California.

SUPPORT YOUR SPORT—  
JOIN FWSA.

"How Will You Have Your Sierra Wilderness?" is a folder presenting in words, pictures and a map the opposition to the proposed Mammoth Pass road across the Sierra Nevada (SCB, January 1957). Copies are available from the Sierra Natural Resources Committee, Box 4102, Fresno, which has been formed to develop a long-range conservation policy for the area.



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## The Crystal Snowball

Here's good news for winter sports fans; there will be more snowfall in the Sierra this winter than last winter, according to Weldon F. Heald, the Sierra Club's crystal snowball gazer. He predicts a total snowfall of 315 to 350 inches at Soda Springs, Donner Summit, with proportionate snowfall elsewhere up and down the range. And there is a good chance the total might be ten per cent more, or about 375 inches.

Total snowfall at Soda Springs last winter was 296 inches, about ten per cent more than the forecast of 275 inches for the 1956-57 season.

Weldon's studies reveal a cyclical rise and fall in total snowfall there spanning about 15 years. The 1951-52 record snowfall of 788 inches at Soda Springs (which he predicted two years in advance) culminated one of these 15-year cycles, and then the trend turned downward. He believes the Sierra snowfall still is headed downward, the bottom to be reached with a total snowfall of 200 inches or less in one of the next three winters.



Members are requested to submit any material they may have for inclusion in Mountaineering Notes for the 1958 annual SCB as soon as possible to John Shonle, 376 Colusa Avenue, Apt. 2, Berkeley 7, California. Please consult the 1957 annual SCB as to form and scope of the notes.

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# Mountain Talk

**H**ANNIBAL crossing the Alps with his exotic pack string of elephants made history of a kind that was repeated last summer when the Sierra Club High Trip crossed Muir Pass. Although it wasn't the fate of a nation that depended on Ted Grubb's success in getting his party over the 12,000-foot divide between the San Joaquin and Kings watersheds, the obstacles were similar, the sweat poured as freely, and a dispassionate observer in Hannibal's day or ours might well have been astonished at what the generals were trying to do.

Ted's problem was to traverse some two-and-a-half miles of snow-covered trail over the rim of Evolution Basin and into LeConte Canyon with 168 people, 36 pack mules and several horses. The people, of course, could have made it on foot with only moderate difficulty. But the style to which they had become accustomed since leaving North Lake on July 8 required that the 36 mules carry their dunnage, food and equipment. So the trail had to be cleared of snow.

On Saturday, July 13, the High Trip was in camp at Darwin Bench, below Evolution Lake. Ted rode up with the packers, who were led again this year by Bruce Morgan's son Charles, to see the condition of the trail. The south side of the pass, entering LeConte Canyon, had the worst snow.

**T**HAT NIGHT the party was told of the situation. A crew of shovelers was organized, with two girls as cooks, and 16 persons moved up to the Muir Hut (elevation, 12,059) early next morning. Bob Golden went to McClure Meadow to confer with Ranger John Kline.

There was a question of logistics: to which roadhead was Bruce Morgan to deliver the next load of supplies? It was supposed to be South Lake, but that now depended on whether the trip could follow the planned route, down LeConte Canyon and up into Dusy Basin. Pilot Bob White took off from Lone Pine to inspect conditions from the air, making radio contact with the ranger and Golden.

Some of the crew stayed overnight at the Muir Hut, and on Monday additional diggers arrived. The human snowplows worked steadily at clearing the trail. In many places the path they made was a new one—higher up the slopes, away from the drifts. Ted Grubb went up for another look, then returned to direct the move from Darwin Bench.

On Tuesday 139 High Trippers (there were 20 in commissary and nine packers) hiked through Evolution Basin, past Wanda Lake, up the switchbacks to the pass and down to the new camp at 11,000 feet in LeConte Canyon. Each carried his sleeping bag and three "lunches" to tide him through breakfast-time next day. Hot tea and lemonade were served at the hut, an amenity that Hannibal's men might have envied. One of the memorable sights of the day was that of oldtimer Ethel Rose Taylor Horsfall, with her long blanket roll and broad hat, trudging patiently up the zigzags.

**B**Y TUESDAY evening most of the party was at the new camp. A few, however, were still at the hut (some spending their third night there) awaiting the arrival of the packers and stock. Plans were to move the loaded animals straight through in the early morning hours while the snow was hard.

At 5 a.m. Wednesday the pack train reached the summit. Ranger Kline was there with his walkie-talkie, and Bruce Morgan, flying over, talked with him.

Beyond the hut was a stretch of trail hard-packed with snow. But Charles Morgan's horse went in deep, and more digging was called for along the 200-yard distance. It was near here that the route utilized a snow bridge which all the animals crossed safely.

The packers were at the LeConte Canyon camp at 9 a.m. The first hot meal in more than a day was in prospect, and sore muscles and taut nerves could begin to relax. Manpower and mulepower had won the latest battle of Muir Pass. How about that, Hannibal?

FRED GUNSKY

## Bulletin Board

THE SIERRA CLUB has filed an appeal to reconsider the sanitation cut of pines on Alamo Mountain in Southern California. (See November Bulletin Board.) The Santa Barbara *News Press* reports that the proposed cut would be the "biggest timber sale" in the history of Los Padres Forest.

**Geologists' reports concerning alternate routes for Highway 89 along the west shore of Lake Tahoe state that an 1100-foot tunnel under the present slide area is not only feasible, but would cost about 15% less — over a half million dollars — than a bridge across the mouth of Emerald Bay.**

Alaskan sportsmen are requesting the Secretary of the Interior to set aside for preservation, through the Fish and Wildlife Service, two remote areas in Alaska. One is a strip of the Bering Coast which contains "America's greatest goose-brant area"; the other is the spectacular eastern end of the Brooks Range, the last substantially unaltered tract of Arctic mountain wilderness in Alaska. The club is supporting these requests.

The Sierra Club strongly supports the Forest Service in its opposition to a mining permit at Black Gulch, on the Kern River Canyon below Lake Isabella. Forest Service plans for extensive — and badly needed — recreational development of the area are already under way. This is the only part of the Kern Canyon suitable for organizational and car camping.

The Attorney-General of California has ruled that SB 1,000 — the 1957 Omnibus Park Bill — requires further legislative action before its provisions can be carried out, because of the ambiguous wording of this bill.

## Word from Washington and Sacramento

The Sierra Club is protesting strongly a Navy proposal to withdraw further scenic lands in Southern California for another bombing range. The lands in question — the San Felipe Hills and Blake's Ravine — are adjacent to and contemplated for inclusion in Borrego State Park. Alternate, less scenic, lands are available if needed. The Navy has already withdrawn large areas in Southern California, including 30,000 acres in the Carrizo Impact Area, leased to it in 1941 by the California State Park Commission. The Carrizo area has not been decontaminated; as a result, some of our most scenic and historic desert areas have been sealed off for the indefinite future.

Newton B. Drury, Director of the California State Division of Beaches and Parks, reports that \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 less than the anticipated annual \$12,000,000 allotment from oil royalties to the Division can be expected. The State Park Commission has directed him to prepare a new priority list of projects planned; and the relative merits of acquisition and development are up for new consideration.

The North Cascades Conservation Council, organized last winter for the "preservation of scenic, scientific, wildlife, wilderness and outdoor recreational resource values" in the North Cascades, (1) feel that it is against the public interest to build trans-Cascade highways between Stevens and Harts passes, or between Harts Pass and the Canadian border; and (2) have urged the Forest Service to include the Salmon La Sac country in its study for wilderness classification of the adjacent Alpine Lakes Limited Area.

EDGAR AND PEGGY WAYBURN

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